DC UNIVERSE

5

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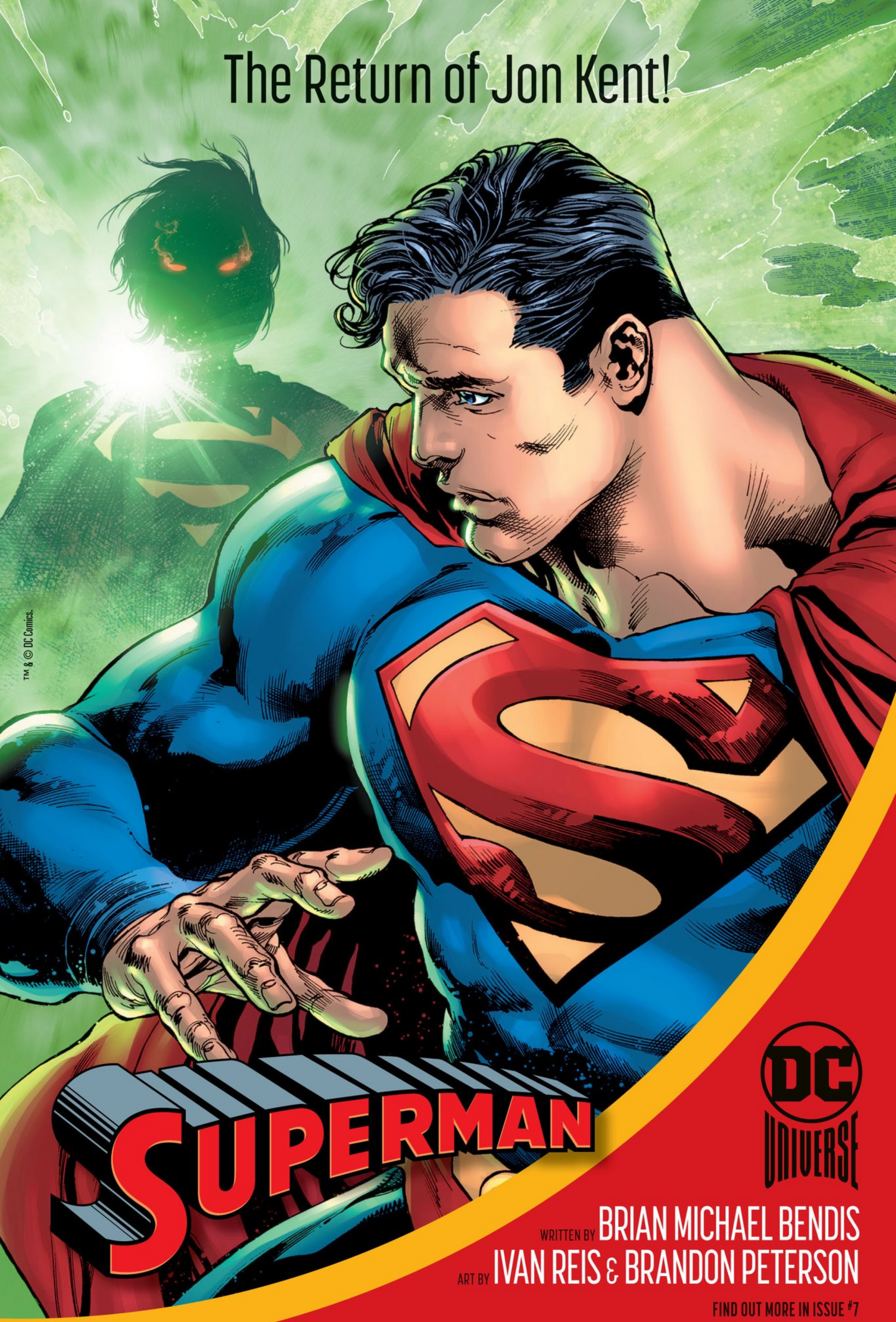
CATWOMAN™

LIVE FREE OR DIE!

JONES
ALLRED

The Return of Jon Kent!



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DC UNIVERSE

WRITTEN BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

ART BY IVAN REIS & BRANDON PETERSON

FIND OUT MORE IN ISSUE #7
JANUARY

CATWOMAN 5 JONES • ALLRED

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GOVERNOR'S MANSION.

COPYCATS

part 5

JOËLLE JONES story & art
LAURA ALLRED color
JOSH REED lettering

EVENING, MR. RAYMOND.

JONES & ALLRED main cover
STANLEY "ARTGERM" LAU variant cover

GOLDEN STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL.

HEY, YILMAZ, GOT A LIGHT?

BRITTANY HOLZHERR associate editor
JAMIE S. RICH editor

IT'S TOO LATE, DEAR, BUT DON'T WORRY...

...THIS WILL MAKE YOU FEEL *BRAND-NEW,* AND SOON ALL THIS SUFFERING WILL BE OVER. NOW...

...IT'S TIME TO TAKE...

...YOUR MEDICINE!

WHA--?!

FEELS GOOD AT FIRST, DOESN'T IT?

GET YOUR HANDS OFF MY *SISTER!*

IT'S CALLED *NARSSISTRINE,* AND I'VE BEEN SHIPPING IT TO *VILLA HERMOSA* FOR MONTHS NOW.

THE DEMAND KEEPS GROWING, ESPECIALLY IN THE POORER NEIGHBORHOODS, AS EXPECTED.

I TAKE SMALL AMOUNTS OCCASIONALLY FOR MYSELF, BUT I'M ALWAYS CAREFUL.

IN SMALL DOSES, IT CAN BE QUITE A RUSH.

YOUR SKIN AND MUSCLES TIGHTEN...

...MAKING YOU FEEL *INVINCIBLE!*

CRRSSSSH

WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO GIVE HER?!

TELL ME WHAT IT WAS!

BUT IN A LARGE AMOUNT-- WHICH, I'M AFRAID, DEAR HUSBAND, THIS WAS--

P-PLEASE, DON'T HURT ME...I WAS JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS!

--THE NERVOUS SYSTEM WILL TREAT THESE CHANGES LIKE AN INVADING ARMY...

...SENDING A MESSAGE TO THE BRAIN TO ATTACK THE SKIN...

...AND THE RESULTING BEHAVIOR CAN BE VERY DRAMATIC!

BUT DON'T DESPAIR, SOON YOUR LUNGS AND HEART TISSUE WILL THICKEN TO THE POINT OF...

...WELL, *DEATH*, I'M AFRAID.

WHO?!

RAINA CREEL...

...THE GOVERNOR'S WIFE!

AAARRGHH!

AAAHHHH!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

I THINK IT WAS COMING FROM MISS MAGGIE'S ROOM!

MOTHER?

OH NO!
EDMOND!
WHY?!

WHAT--

I--I COULDN'T STOP HIM! HE--

HE DID IT TO HIMSELF!

STAY BACK!

EASY NOW, JUST LET THE DOCTOR GO.

GLADLY.

PLEASE, GET HELP!

MY GOD!

ADAM, GET OUT OF HERE!

YES, WE NEED AN AMBULANCE RIGHT AWAY!

CRACK

RRGH!

NO, NO, IT'S OKAY, COME TO MOMMA, ADAM!

THWAK

LANA, *PLEASE,* GET HIM OUT OF HERE!

ADAM, COME ON, YOU SHOULDN'T SEE THIS.

UMHF!

HRRK!

URG!

GOOD-BYE, EDMOND...

S-SELINA?

MAGGIE?

HOLD HER STILL.

NO!

THWUNK

ENOUGH!

...THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

I WILL EXPLAIN A MYSTERY TO YOU.

NOT EVERY ONE OF US WILL DIE, BUT WE WILL *ALL* BE CHANGED.

IT WILL HAPPEN SUDDENLY, QUICKER THAN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY.

LOAD HER INTO MY CAR AND TAKE HER TO THE MANSION.

MRS. CREEL WANTS TO HAVE A WORD WITH HER.

AT THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET, THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED.

WE WILL ALL BE CHANGED, SO THAT WE WILL NEVER DIE AGAIN.

SELINA...

...CAT...

...CAT...

...IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP.

I'M SO TIRED, BRUCE, I JUST NEED TO SLEEP...

...TO FINALLY SLEEP...

...JUST A LITTLE LONGER...

OUR DEAD AND DECAYING BODIES WILL BE CHANGED INTO BODIES THAT WON'T DIE AND DECAY.

THE BODIES WE NOW HAVE ARE ***WEAK*** AND CAN PERISH.

BUT THEY WILL BE ***CHANGED*** INTO BODIES THAT ARE ETERNAL. THEN THE ***SCRIPTURES*** WILL COME TRUE, "*DEATH HAS LOST THE BATTLE!*

"*WHERE IS THE VICTORY?*

"*WHERE IS THE STING?*"

SIN IS WHAT GIVES DEATH ITS STING, AND THE ***LAW*** IS THE POWER BEHIND THE SIN...

...BUT ***THANK GOD*** FOR LETTING OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST GIVE US THE VICTORY!

MRS. CREEL, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS FLAG AS A SYMBOL OF OUR APPRECIATION FOR YOUR HUSBAND'S HONORABLE AND FAITHFUL SERVICE.

ADAM, *DEAR*, COULD YOU RIDE BACK WITH LANA?

I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOUR BROTHER ALONE.

SURE, MOM.

GOD, THAT WAS TEDIOUS! HERE, DO SOMETHING WITH THIS, WON'T YOU?

SO YOU WANTED TO TALK?

DETECTIVE YILMAZ HAD A RUN-IN WITH OUR FAVORITE NEW TRANSPLANT AND HAS DEPOSITED HER AT THE MANSION.

MS. KYLE?

NORTH
1 MILE
IS SHE SECURED?
FOR NOW. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH HER AFTER YOUR FATHER'S WAKE.
BUT I WORRY. A TRAPPED ANIMAL CAN BE DANGEROUS...
...SO I NEED YOUR HELP MORE THAN EVER.
ANYTHING, MOTHER--
I NEED YOU TO TAKE SOME OF THE NARSSISTRINE JUST IN CASE THINGS GET DANGEROUS.
ONLY A FEW DROPS. JUST ENOUGH TO--
BUT--
NO, I'M SORRY. I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU BUT--
YOU ARE YOUNG, AND IT WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE.
AND BESIDES, IT'S ONLY A PRECAUTION.
I NEED YOU TO DO THIS.
WELL...?
YES, MOTHER.
THERE'S A GOOD BOY.

I... JUST NEED...

...TO SLEEP...

CAT!

GOVERNOR'S MANSION.

CLANK

CREEEEAAK

CLICK CLICK

MS. KYLE...

COMFORTABLE?

I DO HOPE THE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE TO YOUR LIKING.

MRS. CREEL WILL BE SENDING FOR YOU SHORTLY...

SLLLIITTTT

...BUT SHE'S A BIT TIED UP AT THE MOMENT-- *HA!*

YOU KNOW...

HEY!

...I'VE BEEN ON MY BEST BEHAVIOR.

AND I'VE TRIED TO DO THIS THE NICE WAY...

...I HAVE BEEN *VERY CLEAR* THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH WHATEVER IS GOING ON IN THIS CITY!

AND NO MATTER WHAT, *YOU PEOPLE* JUST WOULDN'T LET ME BE.

BUT A CAT CAN ONLY TAKE SO MUCH $#*!...

...BEFORE HER *CLAWS* COME OUT!

SO TELL ME, *SWEETHEART,* WHERE IS EVERYONE ELSE?

NEXT: THE BIG SHOWDOWN!

KELLY SUE DECONNICK
ROBSON ROCHA

He's lost
his memory.

He's lost
his kingdom.

Can he find
the hero
within?

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AQUAMAN

THE NEW CREATIVE TEAM
BEGINS IN ISSUE #43

DECEMBER

DC Sneak Preview

AQUAMAN #43

RRGHH!

ANDY! WE NEED YOU IN HERE!

NOW!

KELLY SUE DECONNICK WRITER ROBSON ROCHA PENCILLER
DANIEL HENRIQUES INKER SUNNY GHO COLORIST CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER
AQUAMAN CREATED BY PAUL NORRIS

I-I CAN'T HOLD IT--

I'M HERE, KU! I'M HERE. I'LL ANCHOR!

NO PO-TA-TO SOUP TO-NIIIIIGHT!!

HA HA HA HA!

AQUAMAN

!!

AHH--!

LOC!!

ANDY, HE'LL DROWN!!

AQUAMAN

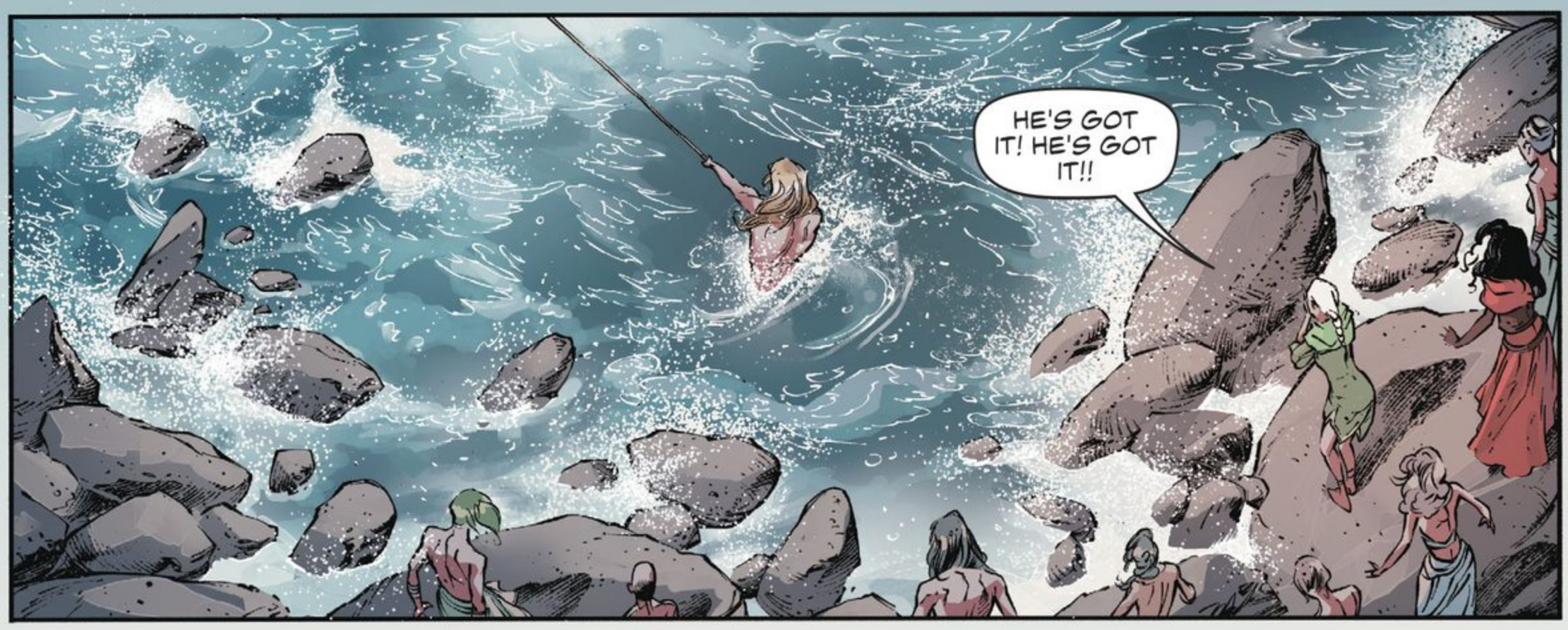
GO GET HIM!

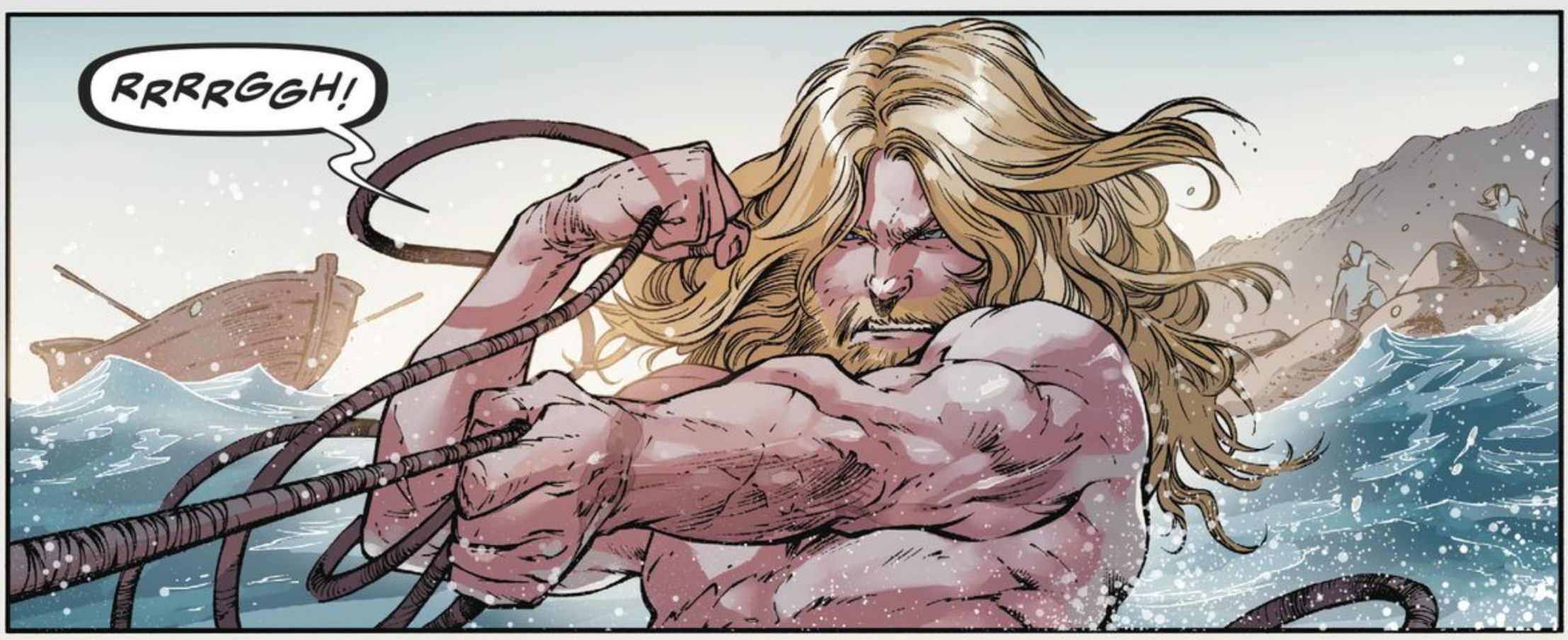
CAILLE, I CAN'T HELP HIM IF I'M SUCKED UNDER, TOO!!

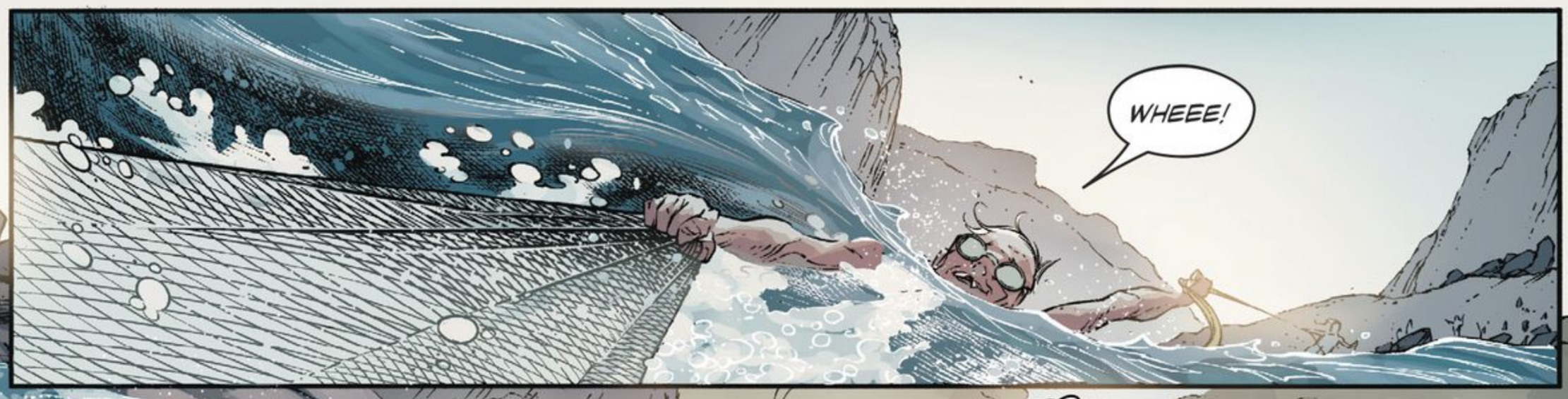
HWPPP

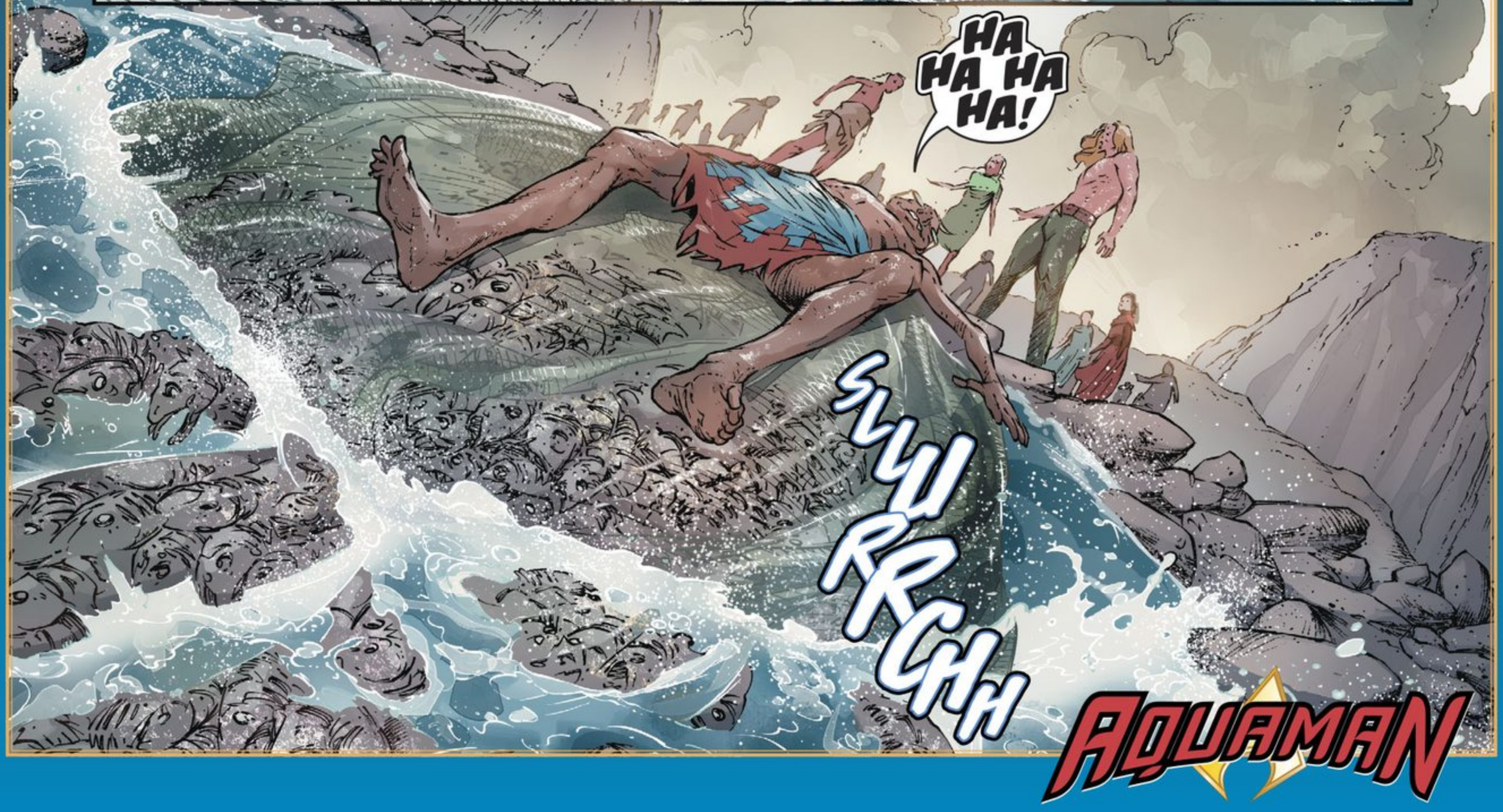
SWKK

AQUAMAN


HE'S GOT IT! HE'S GOT IT!!


RRRRGGH!


WHEEE!


HA HA HA HA!
SLURRCHH
AQUAMAN

DC Sneak Preview

RRRCH.

THE SMELL!

ROTTEN...

EVERY ONE OF THEM. DEAD AND ROTTEN.

WHY? WHY IS SHE SO ANGRY WITH US?

SALT...THE BRINE IS TOO STRONG.

THE OCEAN ISN'T ANGRY, LOC. SHE'S ***HURT.***

IT'S NAMMA.

"FOR YEARS WE HAVE SUFFERED AS NAMMA HAS RAGED. WE HAVE GROWN OLD AND WEAK, AND OUR PAIN HAS DONE NOTHING TO TEMPER HER BITTERNESS.

"NOW SHE POISONS THE VERY SEA THAT GAVE US LIFE. BUT MOTHER OCEAN WILL NOT SUFFER THIS INDIGNITY WITHOUT RETRIBUTION. THERE IS A BATTLE COMING.

"AND THE OCEAN HAS CHOSEN HER CHAMPION."

To be continued in

AQUAMAN #43

on sale December 19th!

THE FAST FIVE

New WONDER WOMAN writer G. Willow Wilson talks about the importance of superhero stories, her creative inspirations and her love for the heroines of DC

HOW ARE SUPERHERO STORIES INTEGRAL TO OUR DAY AND AGE?

WILSON: Superhero books are where we go where we want to see the overturning of terrible to good, which is something we really need when things are going south in the world. Turning to stories about superheroes gives us fresh hope. They show situations in which even the most horrible scenario imaginable can suddenly be solved, and we can snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT WONDER WOMAN?

What makes this character unique is the way that she as a symbol has achieved a kind of universality. Even if you're not familiar with the story, you know what she stands for. And there's a real power in that. What's really challenging–and also a bit scary for me!–is to honor that legacy while also carrying that character forward into the 21st century. Because in order to stay relevant and to remain universal, these characters have to grow, they have to change, they have to evolve with the times.

YOU WROTE A LOIS LANE ONE-SHOT IN SUPERMAN #704 DURING J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI'S RUN. WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF LOIS LANE?

I've always been a big Lois fan. I grew up with the Christopher Reeve films in which Lois is this amazing, cranky, idiosyncratic character. It's rare in superhero books that a non-superpowered character attains that kind of prominence. But in a way, those characters are more aspirational, because the chances of us waking up one morning with superpowers is very remote–but any of us could be Lois if we put our best foot forward every day and were tenacious about the truth and about doing our jobs with integrity.

WHO ARE SOME OTHER FANTASTIC FEMALE HEROES THAT YOU ADMIRE IN THE DCU?

The Bat-Family is full of complex, flawed, relatable female characters who don't have superpowers but are some of the most heroic of superheroes. And there's Mera! She has such an interesting dynamic with Aquaman.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR CREATIVE INSPIRATIONS?

The amazing Peter Milligan run on Steve Ditko's SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN has left a mark on me both as a reader and as a writer. I chased down every single one of that 70-issue run, and I go back to it every couple of years. Showing what exactly you could do with the trope of a superpowered character, breaking down the fourth wall and using it to talk about history, and showing relationships between characters...it has all really, really stuck with me. ■

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"